



## *Purpose Statement*

*The challenge to increase the presence of minority women and men in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) continues to be an issue in higher education and advancement is a critical issue as well. The national dialogue that we continue to facilitate focuses on “Advancing the Status of Diverse Women” in STEM has the following objectives: First to expand opportunities for research by diverse women in STEM; second, to facilitate the involvement of diverse women and men in faculty development and curriculum planning; third, to provide opportunities for intra-institutional collaborations for enhancing intellectual diversity—that can manifest into educational, economic, and entrepreneurial advancement; and fourth to provide an opportunity for minority serving institutions to develop a national research agenda for future generations.*

*(adapted from STEM Conference Proceedings, JStevenson, 2007).*